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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Item 4 of the agenda

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Observations received from Governments and non-governmental organizations

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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PART I

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CAMEROON

[Original: French]
29 October 1964

With regard to resolution 1961 (XVIII), the Cameroonian Government has no objections or proposals to make concerning the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights.

The Federal Republic of Cameroon wishes to add that, before 1968, it will ratify the conventions mentioned in the General Assembly resolution.

CEYLON

[Original: English]
15 October 1964

The proposals contained therein [in the Working Paper ST/SG/AC.5/3] for the celebration of the twentieth Anniversary of the Declaration are most welcome and have our fullest support. The Government of Ceylon assures its co-operation and support by intensifying its efforts in the field of human rights in order that a fuller realization of these rights and freedoms might be reported at the review of such achievements in 1968.

TURKEY

[Original: English]
26 October 1964

It would be appropriate that participation in the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights be limited to States Members of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies.

With regard to the suggestions put forward by the members of the Bureau in paragraph 14 of the working paper, the Turkish Government proposes the addition to paragraph 14 of the "right to a nationality", embodied in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Conventions of "the nationality of married women" and "the reduction of statelessness" which constitute recent achievements of the United Nations in this field demonstrate also the important nature of the subject as well as the concern felt by the Organization and the Member States. In parallel with the activities of the United Nations, the Turkish Government has, some time ago, enacted a new citizenship law which reflects a modern view on the acquisition and loss of nationality by preventing on the one hand the occurrence of new cases of statelessness while on the other contributing to the decrease in the number of stateless women throughout the world.

The Turkish Government feels that item (e) in paragraph 24 which calls upon the Governments "to consider the proclamation of the International Year for Human Rights as a year of amnesty and other measures of clemency to political and other prisoners" should be deleted from the text since the realization of such measures will largely depend on the political conditions in Member States in 1968, which is impossible to predict from now. Furthermore, the proclamation of amnesty to political and other prisoners can be affected through appropriate legislation, the enactment of which will depend on the existence of favourable political conditions in each country. On the other hand, it would seem desirable not to create an impression that political and other prisoners will stand to benefit from a general amnesty on the occasion of the United Nations Year for Human Rights.

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As for the participation of the Non-Governmental Organizations in the work of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights as well as in the celebrations in 1968, it should be useful to bear in mind that although Non-Governmental Organizations maintain a close contact with the public in their respective countries, the nature and the scope of their activities are necessarily limited, whereas the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering all the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Turkish Government is agreeable to the programme of measures and activities mentioned in paragraph 26 of the Working Paper which relates to the proposed activities of the Non-Governmental Organizations. Nevertheless, in view of the divergence of the legislations and practices of various Member States, it would be more appropriate to recognize greater discretionary authority to Government organs regarding the course of action to be followed by various Non-Governmental Organizations, since these Organizations have to observe the relevant laws of their own countries in carrying out the tasks under this programme. It may so happen that some of the measures mentioned in paragraph 26 of the Working Paper regarding the programmes to be implemented by the Non-Governmental Organizations fall within the jurisdiction of the State and therefore can exclusively be carried out by Governmental authorities.

The Turkish Government would have no objection to the convening of a special international conference on human rights in 1968 and concurs in the opinion expressed in paragraph 32 of the Working Paper that it should be so timed as to avoid conflict with the regular session of the General Assembly. The Turkish Government would be in favour of the Conference to be convened at the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva after the conclusion of the regular session of the General Assembly...

PART II

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

[Original: French]
29 October 1964

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales attaches great importance to the world-wide application of the principles of human rights. For that reason, it welcomes the General Assembly's decision to designate the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights.

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales is in favour of holding an international conference in 1968 to deal, in particular, with the problems connected with the study of the progress achieved, to evaluate the effectiveness of the techniques hitherto employed and to prepare a programme of future action to promote respect for human rights.

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales is of the opinion that, as 1968 has been designated as International Year for Human Rights, the preparation of:

the Covenant on Human Rights,

the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination,

the draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices,

the draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of political rights,

the draft principle relating to the right of everyone to leave any country including his own and to return to his country,

the draft relating to the right according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile

should be completed before 1968 and the proposed international instruments on these subjects submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations for final adoption. Nouvelles Equipes Internationales feels that if this goal is to be achieved, the work of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commissions must be speeded up and extended, for which adequate budgetary appropriations must be forthcoming.

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Nouvelles Equipes Internationales suggests that a very detailed questionnaire regarding de jure and de facto implementation of every paragraph of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be sent to all Member States and that the replies replies to this special questionnaire should be circulated to all interested parties, including the non-governmental organizations, long before 1968 so that they may ask for any clarification they may require.

Nouvelles Equipes Internationales is convinced that progress can be achieved in the field of human rights, not by propaganda in favour of human rights among peoples who are already interested in strict respect for those rights, but by taking international action against Governments which violate the fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL

(for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker)

[Original: French]
27 October 1964

We were extremely interested to hear that the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights was considering the possibility of holding an international conference in 1968 to review progress achieved, evaluate methods and techniques, and draw up and prepare a programme of further action.

Our organization considers that the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex is a fundamental principle of human rights and that the objectives to be achieved by the United Nations by the end of 1968 should include the full and effective implementation of articles 23 and 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establish the principle of equal rights, equal opportunities and equal pay for both sexes.

Because of the slowness with which the principles of the Declaration are being recognized and applied to women, particularly in the field of employment, we consider that priority should be given to strengthening the determination and intensifying the efforts to achieve this objective being made by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and Member States.